Adulteration in dairy and food products

*35. MS. MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken notice of the recurrent reports of the massive adulteration in dairy and food products in various cities;

(b) whether Government have assessed the lacunae in existing rules and district level executing agencies;

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to firm up the execution of existing rules against adulteration; and

(d) whether Government are considering to update the existing measures against food adulteration; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (d) As per information provided by the State Food (Health) Authorities who are responsible for the implementation of the Prevention of Food Adulteration (PFA) Act, 1954 and Rules in their respective States/UTs, the percentage of adulteration in samples of various food articles have been on the decline from 11.79% in 2001 to 9.57% in 2005. Of these samples, the average percentage of adulteration detected in dairy products is also found to be declining *i.e.* 23.78% (2003), 21.77% (2004) and 20.68% (2005) whereas the percentage of adulteration for other food products during this period was 8.79% (2003), 7.58% (2004) and 7.88% (2005) respectively.

Food (Health) Authorities in the States/UTs/Local bodies who implement the Act, have constraints like shortage of Food Inspectors due to retirements etc., inadequate budgetary provisions as well as increasing requirements of trained manpower, sophisticated equipments, and reference standard materials in the state testing laboratories.

In order to mitigate these constraints, this Ministry is implementing the World Bank assisted Capacity Building Project in Food and Drugs to strengthen and upgrade the food laboratories, including infrastructure and manpower, provide training to enforcement staff and public analysts, etc.

In order to keep a check on the problem of food adulteration in the country, the Food (Health) authorities are advised from time to time to keep a strict vigil on the quality of food sold in the market by drawing food samples regularly especially of dairy products from all sources *viz.* manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers and to take strict action against the offenders under the provisions of the PFA Act, 1954.

The rules made under the PFA Act are reviewed and updated from time to time wherever required. However, with the coming into force of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, the existing legal provisions for food regulation would be reviewed and updated wherever found necessary by the autonomous Food Authority provided for under the Act.

Replacement of bogies

*36. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) number of 2-AC, 3-AC and sleeper class bogies in various trains proposed to be replaced, if any, by the end of this financial year;